APPENDIX IV

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MANUEL L QUEZON

Delivered on November 15, 7955

Fellow Countrymen:

In the exercise of your constitutional prerogative you have elected me to the presidency of the Commonwealth, I am profoundly grateful for this new expression of your confidence, and God helping me I shall not fail you.

The event which is now taking place in our midst transcends in importance the mere induction into office of your Chief Executive, We are bringing into being a new nation. We are inaugurating its government. We are seeing the fruition of our age-old striving for liberty. We are witnessing the final stage in the fulfilment of the noblest undertaking ever attempted by any nation in its dealing with a subject people. And how well this task has been performed is attested to by the blessings which from fourteen million people go to America in this solemn hour. President McKinley's cherished hope has been fulfilled —H:he Filipinos look back with gratitude to the day when Destiny placed their land under the beneficent guidance of the people of the United States.

It is fitting that high dignitaries of the American Government should attend these ceremonies. We are thankful to them for their presence here. The President of the United States, His Excellency, Franklin D. Roosevelt, ever solicitous of our freedom and welfare, has sent to us, as his personal representative, the Secretary of War, Honorable George H. Dern, whose friendship for our people has proven most valuable in the past. Vice President Garner, Speaker Byrns, distinguished members of the Senate with their floor leader, Senator Robinson, and no less distinguished members of the House of Representatives have traveled ten thousand miles to witness this historic event. I feel that by their presence the whole American Nation is here today to rejoice with us in the fulfilment of America's pledge

generously given that the Filipino people is to become free and independent. It is my hope that the ties of friendship and affection whkh